



# Press Release

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CONTACT: BreAnda Northcutt  
Susie Wong  
(916) 324-9670

## **State's First Education Curriculum About the Environment Ready for Public Review**

SACRAMENTO – Today, Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, announced that the Agency's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) final draft instructional materials were released by the California Department of Education for public review and comment.

"This curriculum goes beyond teaching environmentally-responsible behaviors such as recycling bottles and cans, or turning off extra lights. The EEI curriculum actually embeds these actions into lesson plans in the traditional subjects of Science and History-Social Science, and teaches California's academic content standards to mastery. By incorporating hands-on and other stimulating activities, traditional subjects come to life," said Secretary Adams. "Through this approach, students are able to master important historical events or scientific principles while being exposed to information that helps protect the environment."

"This ground-breaking initiative builds on our state's high academic standards and positions California to lead the nation in environmental literacy and education," added Secretary of Education Glen Thomas. "I look forward to working with our partners to bring this important curriculum into classrooms across the state."

The California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) are actively engaged in the implementation of EEI pursuant to [AB 1548 \(Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003-PDF\)](#) and [AB 1721 \(Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005-PDF\)](#). These landmark laws mandate the development of a unified education strategy to bring education about the environment into California's primary and secondary schools. Other current key partners include the State Board of Education, the Office of the Secretary of Education, the Curriculum and Supplemental Materials Commission, the State Department of Education (CDE), and the California Natural Resources Agency.

A link to the EEI curricula and instructions for submitting public comment is available on the California Department of Education's EEI Web page at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/ee/>. Comments can be submitted to the Curriculum Commission by Sept. 1, 2009 for consideration.

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